

COUNTESTHORPE GARDENS AND ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Events are moving quickly. Here's the latest news.

- Our Landlords, the Church Glebe land Committee have granted the Developers a 'right of access' through the allotments.
- This 'right of access' allows a route for emergency vehicles plus a pedestrian and cycle way to come up Glebe Drive and to cut straight through our allotments to the proposed new housing estate.
- This has obvious security issues for all of us as well as splitting the allotments site.
- The builders would also be allowed to lay pipes etc wherever required for the new houses.
- The Planning Application may look very different from what was shown at the recent exhibition. This has happened with other proposed developments in the village.
- The Planning Application for this stage of the development is likely to be made very soon. We then have only a short time to object (officially three weeks).
- More details about what all this means for us are on the reverse of this page.

When the time comes to make a response, the CGAS Committee wishes to represent your views fairly. So, if you have any comments about what you know so far about the proposals, please let the Committee know either by filling in this form (or writing at greater length if you wish) or by talking to any Committee member.

There's a lot to be done both at this stage and when the Application has been submitted. If you can help in any way and/or have ideas and suggestions, please let the Committee know.

Name -----

Comments, ideas, suggestions and offers of help:

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSALS

The Outline 'Concept' Plan shown at the recent exhibition indicates what the Developers propose at the moment. The final plans to be submitted for Planning Permission could look very different.

We know that the 'right of access' for emergency vehicles plus pedestrians and cyclists would be routed along Glebe Drive and to the new housing estate, bisecting the allotments site. Such a route would not only split the site in half but also open the allotments to the threats of vandalism and theft which any through route would bring, despite any barrier the builders might provide – and what would that look like anyway, compared with the views we currently enjoy? It would also be inevitable that anyone from the new houses wishing to go to the village centre, or beyond to Wigston etc, would cut through the allotments and down Glebe Drive, no matter what assurances we are given.

The Glebe land Committee has, so far, taken no notice of our objections to their granting the 'right of access'. We do not know whether this route will be part of this time's Planning Application but it seems clear that it will be proposed at the next stage if not at this one. If the current proposed Housing Development is allowed, it leaves the door wide open for more.

On your behalf, the Committee took action immediately after the surveys took place. We wrote to the Bishop and the Glebe land Committee and talked to the Land Agents. We feel that our prompt actions, together with the Vicar David Hebblewhite's intervention on our behalf, made a difference. At least the Glebe Land Committee decided then to retain the allotments land so the allotments are safe for the time being. We are currently negotiating for a 25 year lease to bring some further security.

As soon as the Planning Application has been made, we shall circulate all members with details of where the Plans can be viewed and information as to what we can all do at that stage.